

Message Text

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51

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-07 ACDA-10

CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07

FEAE-00 PM-03 AID-05 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 OPIC-06 COME-00 /114 W
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R 161326Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2070
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2182

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, SF

SUBJ: OPENING OF NEW PILOT PLANT TO PRODUCE URANIUM
HEXAFLUORIDE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

1. RAND DAILY MAIL OF 12 JUN CARRIED ARTICLE ON STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER OF MINES, DR. PIET KOORNHOF, TO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON 11 JUNE THAT SOUTH AFRICAN SCIENTISTS HAD SUCCESSFULLY COMMISSIONED PILOT PLANT AT SOUTH AFRICAN ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD'S PELINDABA RESEARCH CENTER TO PRODUCE URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE WHICH IS FEED MATERIAL FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT AT VALINDABA. DR. KOORPOF ADDED THAT THE URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE PILOT PLANT AT PELINDABA RECEIVES URANIUM TETRAFLUORIDE PRODUCED BY NUCLEAR FUELS CORPORATION (NUFCOR) OF SOUTH AFRICA PLANT AND THEN CONVERTS URANIUM TETRAFLUORIDE TO URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE. THE URANIUM
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TETRAFLUORIDE FROM THE NUF COR PLANT IS PRODUCED

FROM URANIUM OXIDE MWED IN SOUTH AFRICA.

2. DR. KOORNHOF COMMENTED THAT THE NEW URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE PILOT PLANT

NOW PUTS SOUTH AFRICA IN A POSITION TO DO ITS ENTIRE
URANIUM ENRICHMENT PROCESS WITHOUT HAVING TO DEPEND ON OUTSIDE
ASSISTANCE. HE FURTHER STATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE URANIUM
HEKHURIDE PILOT PLANT WAS NOT A FULL-SCALE COMMERCIAL PLANT,
INDUSTRIAL SCALE UNITS WERE NEVERTHELESS USED SO THAT THE
PLANT WOULD PROVIDE VALUABLE INFORMATION ON DESIGN AND
OPERATIONS FOR FUTURE LARGE-SCALE COMMERCIAL PLANT THAT WOULD
HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED.
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: n/a
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